

ANTHROPOLOGY

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 Measurements and observations of the Yakut physical type have been made by Middendorff, Maak, Hecker, Mainov, Vitashevsky, Kon, Sipovich, Sieroszevski, and Mrs. Jochelson. Middendorff's measurements of the Yakut were lost when his boat capsized on Taimyr Lake, and consequently, he published only a description of the Yakut type. All the Yakut, he states, are dark skinned and black haired. However, every observer distinguished two distinct types: one closely akin to the European, while the broad, flat face of the other is manifestly Mongoloid.¹ German scientists of the middle of the nineteenth century believed the Turkic race to be distinct from the Mongoloid. In accordance with this concept, Middendorff explained this difference by ascribing it to the Tungus influence, which he regards as purely Mongolian. Middendorff contended that in the posterity of peoples of mixed origin the physical type of either the father or the mother is reproduced. He argued, therefore, that among the Yakut we find either representatives of a pure Turkic, or a genuine Mongoloid type, i.e., Tungus.

R. Maak adhered to the same theory. Referring to the Viliui Yakut, he states:—

"Some faces show a true Mongolian type which may bear testimony of a mixture with Tungus" and further, "Among the Yakut are found Tungusian, i.e., Mongolian types, and, on the other hand, we meet Yakut types, i.e., Turko-Tatarian, among the Tungus."²

According to Boas,³ two theories of heredity are held: one that the characteristics of the parents are blended in the children; the other, that the laws of heredity act in such a way that for certain traits, the type of either the father or the mother, or that of a more remote ancestor, is reproduced. An inquiry into the value of the cephalic index has shown clearly that in intermarriages within the same race the laws of alternating heredity are fulfilled. Children do not form a blend between their parents, but revert either to one type or the other.

These conclusions of Professor Boas and others are only partially applicable to the Yakut. In the discussion of the Yakut language we shall see that their linguistic position is somewhat contradictory to their somatological situation. While the Yakut language, with all its peculiarities, undoubtedly belongs to the Turkic stock, the question of their origin is

¹Von Middendorff, A. Theodore, *Reise in den äussersten Norden und Osten Sibiriens während der Jahre 1843 und 1844 mit allerhöchster Genehmigung auf Veranstaltung der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu St. Petersburg ausgeführt*. St. Petersburg, 1847. 3 vols.

²Maak, R., *The Viliuisk District of Yakutsk Province*. St. Petersburg, 1887. (In Russian).

³Boas, Franz, *Changes in the Bodily Form of Descendants of Immigrants* (Reprinted from the *Reports of the United States Immigration Commission*, New York, 1912), 77.

more complicated. Recent investigators of peoples speaking Turkic dialects have discovered their extensive blood mixture with peoples of different ethnical origin. The war-like Turkic nomads spreading over a vast territory during millenia, came in contact or blended with different racial elements: in Central and Southern Asia with Iranians and Semites; in the west, with Caucasians and Mediterraneans; somewhat to the north of the latter, with Slavs; to the northwest, with Finns; and to the east, with Mongols and Tungus. Through contact with their neighbors some Turkic groups lost all knowledge of their native language, but more often the Turks have assimilated alien groups into the family of Turkic-speaking peoples.

Deniker distinguished Turks from Mongols characterizing them as follows:—

The Turkish race may be thus described: Stature above the average (1 m. 67-1 m. 68); head, hyper-brachycephalic (cephalic index on the living subject, 85 to 87); elongated oval face, non-Mongoloid eyes, but often with the external fold of eyelid; the pilous system moderately developed; broad cheek-bones, thick lips; straight, somewhat prominent nose; tendency to obesity.

The Mongols are thus described:—

Nearly average stature (1 m. 63-64); head, sub-brachycephalic (cephalic index on the living subject, 83); black straight hair, pilous system little developed; the skin of a pale-yellow or brownish hue, prominent cheek-bones, thin straight flattened nose, Mongoloid eyes.¹

However, recent investigators have expressed doubts as to the difference between these two types stating that the Turks and Mongols are branches of one racial stock.

N. L. Hecker, who studied the physical type of the Yakut, measured 417 men and 80 women. The measurements were made in 1894 in Yakutsk City and in the central part of the Yakutsk District. Forty measurements were taken on each individual, in accordance with Broca's and Bogdanov's instructions. Hecker soon left Yakutsk and while living in Irkutsk analyzed his material on 139 Yakut,² but included individuals whose blood relationship with Russians was known. Hecker also measured thirty Russian peasants of Amga Village who were however, three-quarter Yakut and Tungus.

On leaving Siberia for European Russia Hecker turned over his anthropometric material to I. I. Mainov. Mainov excluded from Hecker's Yakut thirty males whose relationship with Russians was

¹Deniker, J., *The Races of Man: An Outline of Anthropology and Ethnography*. London, 1900. 377 and 379.

²Hecker, N. L., Contribution to the Characterization of the Physical Type of the Yakut (*Memoirs, East Siberian Division of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society*, vol. 3, part 1, Irkutsk, 1896, in Russian).

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HEAD LENGTH

While the cephalic index indicates the relation of the length to the width of head, and thus gives some idea of head form, the absolute length of head may give an idea of its size. The greater the length, the larger is the head. Therefore it will be of interest to give data on the length of head before that for the cephalic index.

CEPHALIC INDEX

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From the table on the cephalic index we may observe that the mass of Yakut are brachycephals. If we compare the known average cephalic indices of the following Turkic and Mongoloid peoples, we may conclude that authentic Turks are broader headed than Mongols. From this the inference may be drawn that the moderate brachycephaly of the Yakut, may be ascribed to an admixture with non-Turkic, long-headed peoples. This contention may be supported by the fact that some Samoyedic, Yeniseian, Finnic, Iranian, and other tribes having become Turkicized and interbred with Turks have a smaller cephalic index than that of the genuine Turks.

Mongols			Turks		
	No.	Index		No.	Index
Kalmuck (Kuldja)	81	86.96	Kara-Kirghiz	66	86.17
Buryat	816	85.87	Kirghiz-Kaisak	374	87.10
Kalmuck	285	82.57	Kumyk	107	87.04
Khalka	36	81.88	Telengit		86.14
Torgout	103	84.73	Uzbeg	239	86.21
			Taranchi	306	86.46

The Sarts, having a cephalic index of 83.91, are regarded as a mixture of the original Iranian inhabitants of Central Asia, the Tadjiks, with their Turkic conquerors, the Uzbeks. While the Uzbeks have a cephalic index of 86.26, the Tadjiks also have a somewhat greater index (84.85) than the Sarts. This leads us to surmise that there must have been a third component in the Sart physical type.

The Tatars of Crimea have a cephalic index of 84.49; the Osmanli, 84.70; the Tatars of Kazan, 82.08; the Tatars of Caucasus, 83.49. Comparing these data with the measurements of Turks shown above we may infer that the Osmanli, Crimea, Kazan, and Caucasian Tatars are Turks mixed with non-Turkic elements, as is actually the case.

"Strahlenberg divides them into 10 tribes, and Syboreen's Almanack for 1876 gives their number at 210,000. They belong to the great Turk family, and hence their Siberian locality is remarkable, because the Turks [300] have ever been the people to displace others, whereas the Yakutes have been themselves displaced, and driven into this inhospitable climate, it is supposed, by the stronger Buriats."

13: Sarytschew--9

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(1795-90) 1806

Yakut

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"The Jakuts are probably descended from an ancient race of Tartars not yet converted to Mahometanism. This appears evident from a similarity of their features, their mode of life, and still more their language, which approaches so nealy [sic] to the Tartar dialect, that one of my attendants, who was a Tartar, understood most of what they said without any difficulty. "

16: Great Britain Admiralty --163 G-3 (no date) 1920

Yakut

116, 144, 197

"The Yakuts belong to the Turkic branch of the Ural-Altaic stock, and their language presents close resemblances to that of the Turks. There is a Yakut grammar by Boethlingk (published in 1851)."

" It is probable that in ancient times Siberia was occupied by hordes of Chukchas, Finns, and Kirghiz, and that the two most populous races inhabiting there at the present day, viz. : the Mongolians, from whom sprang the Tartars and the Yakuts, and the Mantchur, the ancestors of the present Giliacks, Sayans, and Tunguz, have come from the west and south during this change in the religious ideas, and having mingled with the previous settlers, gave rise to the present varieties."

37: Dobell--307 [2]

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(1812-13) 1830

Yakut

116, 144, 231

"They are men generally of small stature, light, and very active, when they choose to exert themselves, indefatigable on the road, and surpassing every other people in conducting and taking care of horses. In features they resemble strongly the people of the province of Nankin, in China."